

Extraterrestrials invade Space Center Houston to answer the question:

Since the dawn of time, Earthlings have pondered, argued and squabbled over the question, "Could there be life on other planets?" While Scully and Mulder make it look easy, those of us on this planet know the quest for extraterrestrial life isn't quite so convenient. Until now.

Beginning October 8, everyone can dive into their own *X-Files* at Space Center Houston's new exhibit, *Are We Alone?* What might creatures from other planets look like and feel like? What could they tell us about existence beyond our solar system's third planet? You can explore all that and more at *Are We Alone?*, an out-of-this-world, interactive experience that will take visitors on a fun-filled voyage of mystery far from Earth, into the outermost reaches of our solar system and beyond.

It's a close encounter for everyone as you marvel at the centerpiece of the exhibit, where you'll meet a quartet of the most awesome robotic space creatures this side of Pluto.

'Are We Alone?'

There's Hairy Sandwalker, Gusto Traveler, Phineous Palindrome and the Clumping Rockettes. The 12- to 20-foot-tall robotic creatures represent life forms that might

develop on planets where the gravity, geology and atmosphere differ from those on Earth. These friendly space dwellers move, talk and will tell you all about what life is like on their planets.

"We're very excited to present our largest exhibit ever at Space Center Houston. We know families will truly have the time of their lives at this amazing new

attraction filled with extraordinary mystery and adventure, said Richard Allen, president and CEO. "*Are We Alone?* continues our tradition of offering our guests new experiences and intelligent family fun with every visit."

The Quest: In this area of the exhibit, guests can use state-of-the-art telescopes to see star fields beyond our galaxy, use radio telescopes to uncover "invisible" objects in a star field, and discover the odds of finding life elsewhere in the universe. Also, find out how scientists

have attempted to contact intelligent life beyond our planet.

A World Beyond: Jumpin' Jupiter! Spectacular Saturn! Discover what creates the dramatic color around these two planets. You also can see what the world would look like through the "eyes" of an infrared camera. Explore the surface of another planet with different atmospheric conditions... which reveals a mysterious landscape.

As it exposes you to a menagerie of possibilities in the worlds beyond what we know, *Are We Alone?* captures the imagination and the reality of extraterrestrial life. We've always wondered if there were life on other planets but never questioned, "Could they be here with us?" Until now...so come uncover all the fun and mystery at Space

Center Houston.

Are We Alone? is a nationally touring exhibit developed by Pacific Science Center in Seattle and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute, and is partially funded by the National Science Foundation.

Are We Alone? opens Friday, Oct. 8, and admission to the attraction is included with the cost of admittance to Space Center Houston. Ticket prices are \$12.95 for adults, \$8.95 for children 4 to 11 years of age. Children under 4 are admitted free. The price for senior citizens age 65 and over is \$11.95.

Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends. The Center is closed Christmas day. ■

NASA JSC Photo s99-11657 by Robert Markowitz

America Recycles Day 1999

For our children's future... 'Buy recycled today'

It's time for round two of the JSC America Recycles Day contest. The JSC Environmental Stewardship Subcommittee's Recycling Work Group received about 400 entries in the September contest, a word search puzzle about recycling do's and don'ts. The puzzles have been scored and prizes are now being sent to the first 300 eligible winners. The October contest is a cryptogram. The cryptogram, along with a list of September winners and other America Recycles Day information, can be found on the America Recycles Day home page accessible through the JSC internal home page. Once again, the first 300 correctly solved puzzles from eligible employees submitted by October 22 will receive a small prize. Winners names along with the September winners will be placed in a pool to draw for the grand prize on November 15.

Most people don't think about what happens to the materials that they drop in the

recycling bin at home or work. Read on for some information that really brings home the idea that you're not really recycling unless you buy recycled.

More than 45 percent of all paper Americans use is recovered for reuse or recycling; in fact, more paper is now recovered than is being land-filled. That's about 267 million pounds of paper recovered each and every day for reuse and recycling in the U.S. And last year, 37 percent of the raw material fiber used to make new paper products came from recycled paper. To put that in more visual terms think of this:

▼ The paper recovered for recycling in the past 10 years would fill more than 3.5 miles of landfill space packed 50 feet high.

▼ Enough paper is collected for recycling each year to fill a box-car train 7,600 miles long.

▼ In 1997, more than 35 percent of all glass bottles and jars sold in the U.S. were

recycled. Most recycled glass is used to manufacture more bottles and jars; however, it is now being used in other applications such as manufacture of fiberglass insulation, roadbed aggregate for the nation's highways, driving safety reflective beads, and decorative tile.

▼ In 1998, almost 63 percent of aluminum was recycled. Only about 1 percent of consumer aluminum cans goes to landfills. The average aluminum can contains more than 50 percent post-consumer recycled content. Using recycled aluminum instead of aluminum ore saves 95 percent of the energy and air pollution during the manufacturing process (that's enough energy to light a city the size of Pittsburgh for six years). Every second, 1,500 aluminum beverage cans are recycled. If all the cans which have been recycled since 1972 were placed end-to-end, they would stretch to the moon almost 200 times.

▼ In 1997, nearly 1.4 billion pounds of plastic bottles were recycled; that's a recy-

cling rate of almost 24 percent. More than 1 billion pounds of non-bottle plastics, such as battery casings, film, bags, crates and x-ray film, were recycled. There are now almost 2,000 businesses engaged in handling and/or reclaiming recovered plastic for use in new products. Plastic is recycled into new bottles, carpet, filler for highways, computer housing and components, plastic lumber, plastic decking and even clothing.

▼ Almost 100 percent of automotive batteries are recycled.

Here are a few last statistics. Each of us makes about 4.5 pounds of garbage each day. About 60 percent of the trash we throw away ends up in one of the 3,000 U.S. landfills. Each of us can help conserve our planet's resources by participating in recycling programs and buying new products that contain recycled content.

A November article in the *Roundup* will feature information on recycling and buying recycled at JSC. For details about recycling at JSC, contact Jo Kines at x33218. ■



GILRUTH CENTER NEWS

<http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/oh/exceaa/Gilruth/Gilruth.htm>

Gilruth badges: Required for use of the Gilruth Center. Employees, spouses, eligible dependents, NASA retirees and spouses may apply for photo identification badges from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Cost is \$10. Dependents must be between 16 and 23 years old.

Nutrition intervention program: Six-week program includes lectures, a private consultation with the dietitian and blood analysis to chart your progress. Program is open to all employees, contractors and spouses. For details call Tammie Shaw at x32980.

Defensive driving: One-day course is offered once a month at the Gilruth Center. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$25. Call for next available class.

Stamp club: Meets every second and fourth Monday at 7 p.m. in Rm. 216.

Weight safety: Required course for employees wishing to use the Gilruth weight room. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$5. Annual weight room use fee is \$90. The cost for additional family members is \$50.

Exercise: Low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$24 for eight weeks.

Step/bench aerobics: Low-impact cardiovascular workout. Classes meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks. Kristen Taragzewski, instructor.

Yoga: Stretching class of low-impact exercises designed for people of all ages and abilities in a Westernized format. Meets Thursdays 5-6 p.m. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks. Call Darrell Matula, instructor, at x38520 for more information.

Ballroom dancing: Classes meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursdays for beginner, 8:30-9:30 p.m. for intermediate and 7:30-8:30 p.m. for advanced. Cost is \$60 per couple.

Country and western dancing: Beginner class meets 7-8:30 p.m. Monday. Advanced class (must know basic steps to all dances) meets 8:30-10 p.m. Monday. Cost is \$20 per couple.

Fitness program: Health-related fitness program includes a medical screening examination and a 12-week individually prescribed exercise program. For more information call Larry Wier at x30301.

Aikido: Martial arts class for men and women meets 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. No special equipment or knowledge is needed to participate. Aikido teaches balance and control to defend against an opponent without using strength or force. Beginning and advanced classes start each month. Cost is \$35 per month.